

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /109 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0438

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01218

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: POR, MARR, MOPS, UNSC, UNGA, IS, LE

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: BISHARA/LEONARD CONVERSATION
ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

1. SUMMARY. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMB LEONARD APRIL 3,
KUWAITI PERMREP BISHARA WARNED THAT UNLESS ISRAEL
MADE SUBSTANTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS FROM LEBANON
SOON THERE COULD BE RESOLUTIONS IN UNSC AND UNGA
ON NONCOMPLIANCE WITH SC RES 425. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER,
THAT ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT ON THINNING OUT AND PLANS
FOR WITHDRAWAL TIMETABLE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH UN
WOULD ENABLE HIM TO STAVE OFF PRESSURES FOR SC
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MEETING FOR "THREE OR FOUR DAYS." END SUMMARY.

2. AMB LEONARD AND KUWAITI AMB BISHARA
MET APRIL 3 TO DISCUSS PRESSURES BISHARA SAID WERE
BUILDING UP IN ARAB GROUP FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. BISHARA SAID AT ARAB GROUP
MEETING MARCH 30 PLO REP HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY

INSISTENT ON SC MEETING TO DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL. BISHARA HAD TOLD OTHERS HE WAS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US MISSION AND THIS HAD "COOLED THEM OFF" FOR A FEW DAYS. IN PRINCIPLE, HE TOLD LEONARD, HE DID NOT WANT SC MEETING UNLESS LEBANON REQUESTED IT, SINCE IT WAS IMPORTANT SUPPORT GOL. PRESSURES WERE BUILDING UP, HOWEVER,

3. BISHARA ALSO REPORTED ON SOVIET AMB TROYANOVSKY'S DEMARCHE TO SYG WALDHEIM ON APRIL 1, ABOUT WHICH PLO HAD INFORMED HIM. ACCORDING TO THIS ACCOUNT, TROYANOVSKY HAD TOLD WALDHEIM UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY AFFECT PLO AND AGREEMENTS RELATING TO ITS PRESENCE IN LEBANON. BISHARA SAID HE CONSIDERED PLO-GOL PROBLEM A BILATERAL ISSUE AND DID NOT THINK SC SHOULD GET INTO IT.

4. RETURNING TO WITHDRAWAL QUESTION, BISHARA EMPHASIZED THAT IT COULD NOT BE MADE CONDITIONAL ON ARRIVAL OF UNIFIL CONTINGENTS. LEONARD SAID IT WAS US POSITION ALSO THAT WITHDRAWAL WAS NOT CONDITIONAL IN SC RES. BISHARA SAID USYG URQUHART HAD INDICATED THAT ISRAELIS HAD SUBMITTED TENTATIVE WITHDRAWAL PLAN TO UN AND HAD ASKED BISHARA TO TRY TO PREVAIL ON PLO AND OTHER ARABS TO HOLD OFF ON SC MEETING FOR A FEW DAYS, PENDING DEVELOPMENTS.

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5. US SHOULD BE AWARE, BISHARA SAID, THAT WHEN SPECIAL GA ON UNIFIL FINANCING CONVENED APRIL 20 IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR ARABS, INCLUDING HIMSELF, TO CONFINE REMARKS TO FINANCING QUESTION ALONE. POLITICAL ISSUE --NONCOMPLIANCE WITH SC RES 425-- WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED. HE SAID CERTAIN ARABS (UNIDENTIFIED) HAVE A DRAFT RESOLUTION ON NONCOMPLIANCE AND CONDEMNATION. IF THERE WAS NOT "CONSIDERABLE WITHDRAWAL" BY APRIL 20 SUCH RESOLUTION WOULD BE PROPOSED; "IT WOULD BE BAD." HE CONCEDED "WE WOULD NOT BE FOOLISH ENOUGH" TO LET THIS JEOPARDIZE ACTION ON FINANCING, BUT HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT WE MIGHT BE FACED WITH TWO RESOLUTIONS - ONE ON FINANCING AND ANOTHER ON WITHDRAWAL. SC MIGHT BE CONVENED AS WELL IF SIGNIFICANT WITHDRAWAL DID NOT TAKE PLACE SOON. IN THIS EVENT DRAFT RESOLUTION WOULD PROBABLY TALK OF "MEASURES" IF NOT SANCTIONS.

6. LEONARD, OUTLINING HIS ANALYSIS OF MOOD IN ISRAEL AT PRESENT, EXPRESSED VIEW THAT MOST ISRAELIS WANT TO GET OUT OF LEBANON. AT FIRST THEY WERE ANGRY AT TERRORIST ATTACK AND THOUGHT MOVE INTO LEBANON WOULD CLEAR

UP PROBLEM. NOW THEY REALISE THAT THEY HAVE LOST POLITICALLY AND THAT PROBLEM IS NOT JUST PALESTINIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON BUT ANYWHERE. THEY ARE DISILLUSIONED AND ARE EVEN GRATEFUL TO US NOW FOR GIVING THEM A WAY OUT THROUGH UN ACTION. ISRAELIS ARE NOW COOPERATING WITH UN ON SUPPLY LINES AND THE LIKE AND ARE ANXIOUS THAT MORE UN FORCES ARRIVE IN LEBANON QUICKLY. THIS, LEONARD NOTED, WAS A PROBLEM WHICH TOOK TIME, AND UN HAD ACTUALLY DONE WELL TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT IT HAD SO FAR IN VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION. EVERYONE MUST RECOGNIZE THIS.

7. LEONARD DREW BISHARA'S ATTENTION TO ISRAELI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01218

ANNOUNCEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL (USDAO TEL AVIV 0881 APR 78 NOTAL) AND GAVE HIM COPY, WHICH HE HAD NOT SEEN. LEONARD EXPLAINED FURTHER THAT ISRAELIS PLANNED TO WITHDRAW FIRST FROM EAST AS NORWEGIANS MOVE IN AND LATER FROM CENTRAL AND WESTERN SECTORS. LATTER AREA WAS MOST DIFFICULT, LEONARD NOTED. HE CAUTIONED THAT IF THERE WERE NEW UN RESOLUTIONS ISRAELI REACTION MIGHT BE

TO DIG IN HEELS STUBBORNLY. WE SHOULD AVOID GIVING ISRAELIS ANY PRETEXT TO HOLD UP ON WITHDRAWAL, FOR WHICH IT NOW SEEMED THERE WAS A DEFINITE PLAN.

8. BISHARA INDICATED SOME SATISFACTION WITH ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT BUT EMPHASIZED, "WE DON'T TRUST THEM."
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THEY WOULD HAVE TO PROVE INTENTIONS WITH ACTIONS. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD STAVE OFF PRESSURES FOR SC MEETING FOR 3 OR 4 DAYS ON BASIS OF THIS DEVELOPMENT. IN REPLY TO QUERY ABOUT ARAB GROUP MEETING APRIL 4, BISHARA SAID THERE WOULD BE NO GROUP MEETING, THAT HE WOULD TALK TO OTHERS INDIVIDUALLY, WHICH HE FOUND MUCH EASIER. LEONARD

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